

## Immediate Release

### Carbondale, Illinois, becomes model city of open and honest government

Chicago, March 4 – The government transparency website, Sunshine Review (SunshineReview.org), a project of the Sam Adams Alliance, is pleased to announce that the city of Carbondale, Illinois, has successfully met all ten requirements on the transparency checklist, making it the only government agency in Illinois able to claim they are adequately open and honest with the public they serve.

“Sunshine Review has developed a ten-point Transparency Checklist, which consists of information that Sunshine Review and the Sam Adams Alliance believe should be easily accessible to the public,” said Paul Miller, Communications Director for the Sam Adams Alliance. “This checklist has quickly become the standard that all levels of government should be measured against.”

On March 2, 2009, the city of Carbondale introduced a new website to the public ([www.explorecarbondale.com](http://www.explorecarbondale.com)), stating that their “Citizen Access page contains helpful information about the City’s long standing policies on open government,” according to a press release from the office of Mayor Brad Cole. The city also stated that they used Sunshine Review as an “online resource guide” for the development of their website.

“After conducting a standard review of the city of Carbondale’s website, I am happy to announce that they have met the criteria to earn them an ‘information is provided’ checkmark next to each of the ten categories on the checklist,” said Sunshine Review Managing Editor, Kristin McMurray. “Carbondale is the only government agency in Illinois to have received all ten check marks. It must be noted that Sunshine Review has suggested Carbondale add their checkbook register online to improve their site, but overall the city and the public should be very pleased with the level of transparency found on the city website.”

“It is the hope of the Sam Adams Alliance that all state and local government agencies in Illinois will emulate the transparency efforts of Carbondale,” said John Tsarpalas, Sam Adams Alliance President. “During a time, the state of Illinois has become the example of all that is wrong with government; Carbondale is providing a ray of Sunshine when the clouds are at their darkest.”

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